

Dorig language

Dorig (formerly called *Wetamut*) is an Oceanic language spoken on Gaua island in Vanuatu.

The language’s 300 speakers live mostly in the village of Dorig (IPA: [ˈdɒˈriɯ]), on the south coast of Gaua. Smaller speaker communities can be found in the villages of Qteon (east coast) and Qtevut (west coast).

Dorig's immediate neighbours are Koro and Mwerlap.^[3]

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Phonology

Dorig has 8 phonemic vowels. These include 7 short monophthongs /i ɪ ɛ a ɔ ʊ u/ and one long vowel /aː/.^[4]

Dorig vowels

	<u>Front</u>	<u>Back</u>
<u>Close</u>	<u>i</u> <i>i</i>	<u>u</u> <i>u</i>
<u>Near-close</u>	<u>ɪ</u> <i>ē</i>	<u>ʊ</u> <i>ō</i>
<u>Open-mid</u>	<u>ɛ</u> <i>e</i>	<u>ɔ</u> <i>o</i>
<u>Open</u>	<u>a</u> <i>a</i> · <u>aː</u> <i>ā</i>	

The phonotactic template for a syllable in Dorig is: /CCVC/ — e.g. /rkp^wa/ ‘woman’; /ŋm^wsar/ ‘poor’; /wrɪt/ ‘octopus’. Remarkably, the consonant clusters of these /CCVC/ syllables are not constrained by the Sonority Sequencing Principle.^[5]

Grammar

The system of personal pronouns in Dorig contrasts clusivity, and distinguishes four numbers (singular, dual, trial, plural).^[6]

Dorig	
Native to	Vanuatu
Region	Gaua
Native speakers	300 (2012) ^[1]
Language family	Austronesian - Malayo-Polynesian - Oceanic - Southern Oceanic - Vanuatu - North Vanuatu - Torres–Banks Dorig
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	wwō
Glottolog	weta1242 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/weta1242) ^[2]

Spatial reference is based on a system of geocentric (absolute) directionals, which is typical of Oceanic languages.^[7]

References

1. François (2012): 88).
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Dorig" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/weta1242>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. List of Banks islands languages (<http://alex.francois.free.fr/AF-field.htm#Vanuatu>).
4. François (2005:445)
5. François (2010:407)
6. François (2016).
7. François (2015).

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- François, Alexandre (2016), "The historical morphology of personal pronouns in northern Vanuatu" (http://alex.francois.online.fr/data/AlexFrancois_2016_History-personal-pronouns_north-Vanuatu_s.pdf) (PDF), in Pozdniakov, Konstantin (ed.), *Comparatisme et reconstruction : tendances actuelles, Faits de Langues*, **47**, Bern: Peter Lang, pp. 25–60

External links

- Linguistic map of north Vanuatu, showing range of Dorig on Gaua (http://alex.francois.free.fr/AlexFrancois_Torba-languages_map.htm).

- Audio recordings in Dorig language (https://lacito.vjf.cnrs.fr/pangloss/corpus/list_rsc_en.php?lg=Dorig), in open access, by A. François (source: *Pangloss Collection*).
- A story in Dorig, with audio recording and translation (http://alex.francois.free.fr/AFtxt_drg-pixies_e.htm).

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